

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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AVERY'S TEEN CLUB REGULATION LEGISLATION PASSED BY COMMITTEE

INDIANAPOLIS – Today legislation authored by State Rep. Dennis Avery (D-Evansville) introducing optional regulations for teen clubs passed out of the Indiana House Local Government Committee.

House Bill 1145 would give local governments more home rule options regarding the regulation of teen clubs. The optional rules that can be enforced include licensing teen clubs, conducting criminal background checks on owners and employees, enforcing age restrictions on individuals entering the clubs, and restricting the hours of operation.

"Cases have been reported across the state that involve older men sexually assaulting young girls at teenage clubs," said Avery. "Teens and their parents should not have to worry about sexual predators inappropriately socializing at the clubs and my legislation will assist local governments in creating a safer environment for teens at these venues."

A number of concerned citizens appeared at the committee hearing to show their support for Avery's legislation. Evansville police detective Debbie Williams told the committee members of reports filed for underage drinking, sexual molestation, and rape at teen clubs in Evansville. Susan Harp from the United Neighborhoods Association of Evansville, and a representative of the Association of Cities and Towns also testified in support of the legislation.

If Avery's bill is passed into law, it will take effect July 1.

The measure will now be sent to the full House.